

ABSTRACT

Non-edible meat processing and packaging films made of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) instead of conventional cellulose have been found to produce films which exhibit enhanced strength and tear resistance, permeability to added smoke and other flavors, as well as additional properties useful in commercial meat processing operations. Either partially or fully hydrolyzed PVA is used, depending on whether the film is intended to remain insoluble or to dissolve off the meat product during the cooking process. A liquid composition for casting or extrusion of films according to the invention will combine PVA, water, a plasticizer and suitable hydrocolloids to act as modifying agents for processing of the film.